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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02770 021732Z

64
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /152 W
---------- 121969
R 021620Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4720
INFO YUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 2645
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11#WC N6.-
TAGS: EGEN, XK, CS
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO MANAGUA CACM MEETINGS

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

REF: GUATEMALA 3107

SUMMARY: COSTA RICAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE JULY 23-25 CACM MEETINGS IN MANAGUA HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, WITH LA NACION TENDING TO PLAY UP THE MEETING AS POSSIBLY THE BEGINNING OF A

BETTER PERIOD FOR THE MARKET. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN GOCR CACM POLICY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE STRONG. THIS RUNS SOME RISK THAT COSTA RICA'S POLICY WILL FOCUS TOO NARROWLY ON SHORT-TERM INTERESTS, BUT ON BALANCE IT SHOULD MAKE FOR MORE INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATION.

1. THE JULY 23-24 MANAGUA CACM MEETINGS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE
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PRESS COVERAGE IN SAN JOSE, WHICH AT LEAST EQUALLED THAT

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ACCORDED TO THE DECEMBER 1972 "RESTRUCTURING" MEETINGS
IN GUATEMALA. PRACTICALLY ALL PAPERS DEVOTED SOME SPACE
TO THE MEETINGS, BUT THE IMPORTANT DAILY, LA NACION, ASSIGNED
ITS STAR REPORTER, DANILO ARIAS, AS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.
ARIAS HAS TURNED OUT A NUMBER OF ARTICLES BOTH DURING AND
SUBSEQUENT TO MANAGUA. HE TENDED TO FOCUS ON HUMAN INTEREST
ANGLES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE GOCR DEL, BUT
HIS GENERAL THEME POINTED TO THE BUSINESSLIKE NATURE OF
THE MEETINGS AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT MANAGUA WOULD MARK
A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. ON ARIAS HEADLINE SUMMED UP THIS
QUITE WELL: "ENGAGEMENT IN MANAGUA: THE COMMON MARKET AWAKES--
FEW WORDS AND SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS--DEBUT OF MINISTER GASTON
KOGAN--THE HOPE: THE FIVE WISEMEN."

2. REGARDING SPECIFIC ISSUES, EXTENSION OF THE SAN JOSE
PROTOCOL AND THE INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVE SYSTEM WERE WIDELY
REPORTED AS MATTERS OF MOST IMMEDIATE INTEREST HERE.

3. COMMENT: WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE EXPECT TO HAVE THE
PERSONAL REACTIONS OF KEY MEMBERS OF THE GOCR DEL. THE
INITIAL FEELING IS THAT THEEE IS GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH
THE MEETINGS AND OPTIMISM. THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS CERTAINLY
MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SHAPING COSTA RICA'S CACM POLICY
THAN BEFORE AND THIS SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR SOME
TIME. ON BALANCE, WE FEEL THIS IS A HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.
THERE IS SOME DANGER, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PRIVATE SECTOR BIAS
WILL TEND TO MAKE GOCR POSITIONS FOCUS EXCESSIVELY ON
SHORT-TERM, SPECIAL INTERESTS TO THE DETRIMENT OF LONGER-
TERM, RESTRUCTURING NEEDS.
VAKY

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